

App. No. 10/734,495
Attorney Docket Number: 205017-9012

AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Original): A boot for a slack adjuster, the slack adjuster including a link and a body defining a cavity and having a lip, the boot comprising:

an expandable bellows;

a first seal integrally formed with the bellows on a first end of the bellows, the first seal being engageable with the link; and

a second seal integrally formed with the bellows on a second end of the bellows and including a boss, the second seal being positionable in the cavity of the body and engageable with the link, the boss being engageable with the lip of the body to inhibit removal of the second seal from the cavity.

Claim 2 (Original): The boot of claim 1, wherein the bellows, the first seal and the second seal are made of the same material.

Claim 3 (Original): The boot of claim 1, wherein the bellows includes five expandable folds.

Claim 4 (Original): The boot of claim 1, wherein the second seal includes two projections engageable with the link.

Claim 5 (Original): A slack adjuster comprising:

a body defining a cavity therein and including a lip at least partially surrounding an opening of the cavity and at least partially closing the opening of the cavity;

a link at least partially positioned within the cavity and axially movable within the cavity; and

a boot including a bellows, a first seal integral with the bellows and positioned on a first end of the bellows, and a second seal integral with the bellows and positioned on a second end of the bellows, the second seal engageable with the link and with the lip of the body, and wherein the link is movable relative to the second seal.

Claim 6 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 5, wherein the bellows, the first seal and the second seal are made of the same material.

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Claim 7 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 6, wherein the material has a consistent hardness throughout.

Claim 8 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 5, wherein the link defines a recess therein, the first seal being at least partially positionable within the recess to connect the first seal to the link.

Claim 9 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 8, wherein the first seal is movable with the link, and wherein the first seal and the link are movable relative to the second seal.

Claim 10 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 5, wherein the bellows includes five folds.

Claim 11 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 5, wherein the second seal includes two projections engageable with the link.

Claim 12 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 11, wherein the two projections wipe against a surface of the link when the link moves.

Claim 13 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 5, wherein the first seal is engageable with the link externally of the cavity and the second seal is engageable with the link within the cavity.

Claim 14 (Original): A slack adjuster comprising:

a body defining a cavity and including a lip extending radially inwardly into the cavity; and

a boot including a seal and a bellows, the seal including a boss and being positionable in the cavity, the boss being engageable with the lip to inhibit removal of the seal from the cavity.

Claim 15 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 14, wherein the seal is integral with the bellows.

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Claim 16 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 15, wherein the seal and the bellows are made of the same material, the material having similar hardness throughout.

Claim 17 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 14, wherein the lip defines an end of the cavity.

Claim 18 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 17, wherein the lip defines a top end of the cavity.

Claim 19 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 14, further comprising a link at least partially positioned in the cavity and axially movable within the cavity.

Claim 20 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 19, wherein the seal is engageable with the link.

Claim 21 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 20, wherein the seal is engageable with the link within the cavity.

Claim 22 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 14, wherein the seal is a first seal and is positioned on a first end of the bellows, the boot further including a second seal positioned on a second end of the bellows.

Claim 23 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 22, wherein the first and second seals are integral with the bellows.

Claim 24 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 22, further comprising a link at least partially positioned in the cavity and axially movable within the cavity, the link defining a recess therein, the second seal including a second seal lip that is positionable within the recess to connect the second seal to the link.

Claim 25 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 24, wherein the first seal is engageable with the link within the cavity and the second seal is engageable with the link externally of the cavity.

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Claim 26 (Original): A slack adjuster for use with vehicle brakes, the slack adjuster comprising:
a body defining a cavity therein and including a lip, the lip at least partially defining the cavity;

a link at least partially positioned in the cavity and axially movable within the cavity; and

a boot including a bellows, a first seal integral with the bellows on a first end of the bellows, the first seal engaging the link externally of the cavity for movement with the link, and a second seal integral with the bellows on a second end of the bellows and including a boss, the second seal being positionable within the cavity and engageable with the link within the cavity, the boss being engageable with the lip of the body.

Claim 27 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 26, wherein the link defines a recess and the first seal includes a first seal lip that is positionable within the recess to engage the link and connect the first seal to the link.

Claim 28 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 26, wherein the first seal, the bellows and the second seal are made of the same material, the material having similar hardness throughout.

Claim 29 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 26, wherein the second seal includes projections engageable with the link within the cavity.

Claim 30 (Original): The slack adjuster of claim 26, wherein the bellows includes five folds.

Claim 31 (Original): A method of assembling a slack adjuster, the method comprising:
providing a body of the slack adjuster, the body defining a cavity therein;
providing a boot including a bellows and a seal integral with the bellows;
inserting the seal of the boot into the cavity; and
inserting a link through the boot and into the cavity after the seal is inserted into the cavity.

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Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 31, wherein providing a body further includes providing a body including a lip that at least partially defines the cavity, and wherein inserting the seal further includes inserting the seal past the lip and into the cavity, the method further comprising inhibiting removal of the seal from the cavity by engagement between the seal and the lip.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 32, wherein the seal includes a boss, and wherein inhibiting removal includes inhibiting removal of the seal from the cavity by engagement between the boss and the lip.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 31, further comprising engaging the seal with the link after inserting the link through the boot and into the cavity.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein engaging the seal with the link further includes engaging the seal with the link within the cavity.

Claim 36 (Original): The method of claim 31, wherein providing a boot further includes providing a boot including a seal including two projections, the method further comprising engaging the two projections of the seal with the link after inserting the link into the boot and the cavity.

Claim 37 (Original): The method of claim 31, wherein the seal is a first seal, and wherein providing a boot further includes providing a boot including a second seal integral with the bellows.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of claim 37, further comprising engaging the first and second seals with the link after inserting the link through the boot and into the cavity.

Claim 39 (Original): The method of claim 38, wherein engaging the first and second seals with the link further includes engaging the first seal with the link within the cavity and engaging the second seal with the link externally of the cavity.

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Claim 40 (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein the second seal includes a second seal lip, the method further comprising positioning the second seal lip within a recess defined in the link after the link is inserted through the boot and into the cavity to connect the second seal to the link.

Claim 41 (Original): The method of claim 31, wherein providing a boot further includes providing a bellows including five folds.

Claim 42 (New): The slack adjuster of claim 12, wherein at least one of said two projections is resilient.

Claim 43 (New): The slack adjuster of claim 12, wherein at least one of said projections flexes as the link moves.